

Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Act
Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2003

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order by acting Chair William Heavilin at 10:45 AM, on September 24, 2003 at Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services Multipurpose Room.

Members in Attendance:

William Heavilin- Nevada Disability and Law Center-Acting Chair
Tracy DuPree-Nevada State Welfare Division/North-via teleconference
Lisa Erquiaga-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living/Fallon
Robert "Red" Foster-General Public Northern Nevada
Terry Hardy-General Public Rural Nevada via teleconference
Robin Renshaw-Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/South
Jessie Harris-General Public South
Anthony "Tony" Amos-General Public South

Members Not in Attendance:

Alyce Thomas-Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services
Robert Simola, Ormsby ARC
Paul Gowins-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Kimberli Vare-Skill Builders of Nevada

Staff:

Connie Anderson, Chief of Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Services
Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIA
Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIA

Others Present:

Bonnie Dixon-teleconference NDAL
Erin Friedl-SNCIL
Loretta Wilson
Lucy Perez-Supervisor Eligibility & Payments

Others Present Continued:

Naomi Lewis- NSWDC Eligibility & Payments via teleconference

Leslie Danihel-Chief NSWDC Eligibility & Payments via teleconference

I. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Bill had the new members introduce themselves and provide a brief background sketch.

II. Approval of August Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved as presented.

III. Staff Projects Status Update**a. HIWA**

Harry Snoek began the HIWA update by discussing Medicaid coverage. Individuals who are determined eligible for the HIWA program may request up to three months retroactive Medicaid coverage. The individual has to qualify for the HIWA program during the prior three months but will get Medicaid for those months to cover Medicaid services. The prior eligibility cannot be prior to July 1, 2004, the date the program is implemented.

Also per Medicaid regulations the HIWA Medicaid eligibility date is going to be the first date of the month in which the individual applied or is determined eligible rather than the first day of the month following the eligibility determination date.

Update on the meetings with the information technology department: There have been five meetings held between 8/28/03 and 9/11/03 between Information Technology, Harry Snoek and other agencies and departments. It is anticipated that the information technology staff will begin developing a design process for the HIWA program shortly after October 15. Hopefully they will be able to test their design as early as January 2004 so that when the program is implemented in July of 2004 it will be a smooth running process.

If there are problems with the IT design there will be plenty of time to make changes prior to the implementation date.

The issue of standardized deductions and actual employment related expenses are still in the research stages. The Center for Workers with Disabilities in Baltimore Maryland has been contacted to gather information about the ways states with existing Medicare Buy-In programs have set up as their standard deductions. Harry Snoek is waiting for this information before bringing it back to the Advisory Group for feedback.

b. Ticket Team Handbook

Harry has approved the printing of the Ticket Handbooks. He anticipates 15,000 available for distribution within the next two weeks. A copy will be mailed to all Advisory Group members.

IV. New Business

a. A new volunteer will be needed to attend the Mental Health Consumer Conference Planning Committee meetings, Lisa Erquiaga volunteered to sit on the conference committee.

b. Bill Heavilin advised the Group that the Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living is having the 12th Annual Disability Awareness Day on October 25th, 2003. This is a Saturday and it will be held at Lorenzi Park from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Jessie Harris, Tony Amos and Bill Heavilin all volunteered to staff at a table.

c. Robin stated that he has invited Legislature contacts Dina Titus, David Goldwater and Barbara Cegavske for the barbeque at his house on the evening of the 17th of November. He made the suggestion that other Advisory Group members may wish to invite their Legislature contacts as well. Robin states that he would need help at the barbeque and any donations would be appreciated.

V. Group Report

There were no group reports.

VI. Public Comment

Erin Friedl of Southern Nevada Center for Independent Living introduced herself to the Group members and staff. She works for the Benefit Out-Reach program which is funded through Social Security and the Ticket to Work program. She advises people about how their benefits will be affected by becoming employed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Addendum:

After the meeting, Lisa Erquiaga stated that she had a topic that she wanted included in new business for the October meeting. She wishes to discuss where the Advisory Group is heading and what the responsibilities are going to be. She requested that all the Advisory Group members think about this topic and be prepared to discuss this at the next meeting.

